

Middle School Summer Reading

Students in 6th, 7th, and 8th grade will read two books this summer. One of these books is required, the other can be chosen from the list below. For the required book, you will complete the assignment outlined below. For the choice book, you will complete a project sometime during the first week of school. It is encouraged to read the choice book closer to the start of school, so the information is fresh in your mind.

Required Books

Sixth-grade required reading: Extra Credit by Andrew Clements

Seventh-grade required reading: The Wednesday Wars by Gary Schmidt

Eighth-grade required reading: The Giver by Lois Lowry

Choice Books

The second book may be chosen from the list below.

Sixth-grade list for second book choice:

Bud Not Buddy by Christopher Paul Curtis

Al Capone Does My Shirts by Gennifer Choldenko

Heat by Mike Lupica

Seventh-grade list for second book choice:

The Westing Game by Ellen Raskin

Alice in Wonderland by Lewis Carroll

The Cay by Theodore Taylor

Where the Red Fern Grows by Wilson Rawls

Eighth-grade list for second book choice:

The Maze Runner by James Dashner

The Book Thief by Markus Zusak

Anything but Okay by Sarah Darer Littman

War Horse by Michael Morpurgo

For the required book, please complete the following assignment:

Students are to answer two of the following questions - one from each group (Group A and Group B) of questions. Students may select which questions to answer. Certain questions may be more or less appropriate depending on the book read. Responses will be assessed on sentence structure, grammar, spelling, punctuation, and thoughtfulness of the response. Please use evidence from the text when answering the questions.

Group A - Plot and Story Details (Choose one to answer)

Comment on the choices made by the main character of the book. What advice would you have given him/her? Use specific examples from the story in your response.

Write about the story's deeper theme or message. Provide specific examples from the text to explain your answer. Remember a theme is not a one-word description.

What is the main problem/obstacle that the main character must overcome? Was the problem resolved? Did you find it to be a satisfactory or realistic conclusion? Use specific information in support of your response.

Describe some personal connection that you made while reading the book. Were there experiences that related to any of your personal experiences, past readings, or current events? Be sure to reference specific moments in the text.

Choose five adjectives to describe your book and use direct references to the text to defend and explain your choices.

Group B - Craft and Structure (Choose one to answer)

How would the story be different if it had been told from a different narrator? Explain using different examples from the story.

Discuss your book's title. Why do you think the author chose this? Create an alternative title and explain what makes this a possibility by providing examples from the story.

Find a key quote from the text that connects with the novel's overall importance. Be sure to explain what the quote means and when/how/by whom it is said.

Analyze the author's writing style. Describe the style of the author and point out examples from the text to use as evidence. How does the style of writing contribute to the storytelling?

Identify a key moment in the book, where a major character's motivation is on display. Explain why this moment shows the character's personality by drawing comparisons between this moment and other moments in the book.